



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ing, so to speak, done his duty by the Almighty, then proceeds to explain the "Concurrant Causes" of the trouble, "as first their houses are leeke and wet. Secondly the Dyett is nasty and also the dishes . . . and thirdly the rotted rice they eat". He gets into a controversy with Captain Dampire (in the biography) over the relative merits of the "plantine tree" and the "Cocornut", and enumerates fourteen virtues of the latter, not to injure the Captain but "to doe the Cocornut tree Justice". He also recognizes his captors' good qualities, and here also the autobiography adds a touch or two that is not without human interest: "These heathen are very Compationate to indigent people of what nation or Religion soever, and their Common or usual saying in such a case is (Omma gea Durria) He is a Mothers Child".

Were it not that this book is two centuries old and too well known to review in detail we would remind the reader of the many picturesque details to be found in the *Relation* besides its ethnographic value in giving an intimate account of the products, trade, manners, morals, and political state of Ceylon's interior, at a period when the "city three-square like a triangle" was known to only one white man. The narrator may have had an elastic conscience. He says himself, regarding the business of robbing the Indians, that he would not allow himself 'to wade far into the Equity and Justnesse of such Actions, since my Commission according to human law would beare me out'; but wherever his descriptions can be controlled they shine with truth. Thus he says that the heathen will not kill to eat but have no scruples about eating meat killed by another. He means the Buddhists, and this was their rule in India. He says that they can go through the "Oyl" ordeal and come unscathed from the boiling fluid. So they can, and Knox testifies to what he saw (adding also, "whether it be their innocence or their Art, I know not"). The remarkable tales he tells of door-sitting are strange to him, but practices in India and China make them plausible. His proverbs of the country also ring true: "He that hath Money to give to his Judge needs not fear"; "If the planets be bad, what can God do against them?" Testimony of this sort based on comparative literature is fairly trustworthy and may add to Knox's reputation for veracity in other matters, which has not been entirely unquestioned. The original plates and paging are reproduced in the present volume.

Acts of the Privy Council, Colonial Series. Volume IV., A. D. 1745-1766. Edited through the direction of the Lord President of the Council by JAMES MUNRO, M.A., Beit Lecturer in Colonial History in the University of Oxford, under the general supervision of Sir ALMERIC W. FITZROY, K. C. V. O., Clerk of the Privy Council. (London: Wyman and Sons. 1911. Pp. xxxii, 876.)

THE fourth volume of the *Acts of the Privy Council, Colonial Series*, carries the extracts of the Privy Council Register from 1745 to 1766

and covers thereby a very important period of colonial history. No other series of British official publications has yet dealt with these years, except the *Calendar of Home Office Papers* and that only for the brief period from 1760 to 1766. For this reason the present volume is exceptionally welcome. A fifth volume, soon to appear, will complete to 1783 the entries from the Register, and a sixth, which will not be long delayed, will deal with the unbound papers. Thus this noteworthy publication, one of the most important of its kind and put through with a rapidity which reflects great credit upon its promoters, is nearing completion, and when finished will stand as a permanent source of great value to the student of British colonial policy.

The contents of this volume are essentially the same as those of volume III. The Council had settled down into a more or less definite routine of official procedure. Several entries show, even more conclusively than before, that the committee was but the whole Council acting in that capacity, as when it was ordered "by His Majesty in Council that the whole Privy Council or any three of them, Be, and they are hereby appointed a Committee for the Affairs of Jersey and Guernsey, Hearing of Appeals from the Plantations, and other Matters that shall be Referred to them" (pp. 484-485). The chief concerns of this committee, as of the Council itself, were the confirmation or disallowance of colonial laws, the issue of commissions and instructions to the colonial governors, and the hearing of appeals from colonial courts. Other colonial business occasionally appears, but none of it was periodic as was the case with these three aspects, which appear systematically and regularly among the entries. In conjunction with the issue of commissions the Council made an effort to put colonial business on a more organized footing. It scrutinized much more carefully than before the appointment of colonial officials, recommended the codification of colonial laws, and endeavored to check the growth of absenteeism or the performance of colonial duties by deputy. It may be, as Mr. Munro thinks, that the Board of Trade had ceased to be more than a body for reference and report, though the evidence to that effect is far from conclusive and seems less conclusive during Halifax's régime than at some earlier periods, but certainly the representations and reports of the board were never so frequent or its actual influence greater than during these years. Its representations and reports, here recorded, number nearly two hundred and fifty. It is true that a number of its reports were comparatively unimportant and that others were sent back because not signed "by a sufficient number of hands" or for other reasons not given; but the first of the reports to be so treated is of as late a date as 1763, and as witnessing any reflection upon the board is not very significant. In one particular at least the board enters upon a great improvement. It takes pains, in sending in the draft of a governor's instructions, to specify what portions are new, a practice which had it been followed from the beginning would save the student much painful labor.

Not only was the Council endeavoring to lighten the administrative machinery of the colonies, by scrutinizing appointments, but it was also endeavoring to strengthen the king's legislative control by affirming the necessity of the suspending clause and by enlarging the governor's instructions in all matters that concerned that official's attitude toward the passing of colonial acts. It approved the statement of the Board of Trade that for the colonial legislatures to repeal or alter laws confirmed by the crown, without a clause of suspension, was to destroy the power by the crown to direct or govern the colonies and to secure to its subjects their just liberties and privileges (1752). It made vigorous efforts, through the governor's instructions, to sustain the royal prerogative in the colonies as against the encroachments of the popular assemblies, and the committee declared as late as 1765 that such encroachments affected the king's authority and the liberty of his subjects and tended to throw the affairs of the king in the colony into the greatest confusion. We get much light also on the Indian policy of the Secretary of State and the Council, and are better able to understand the great change of plan which was leading to the Proclamation of 1763, a document long misunderstood by our historians. The real reasons for that proclamation are here given on pages 749-751.

Mr. Grant having withdrawn from the undertaking, the preface is signed by Mr. Munro alone. It is a thoughtful essay, characterized by insight and impartiality. From most of its contentions we would not differ, and in all that it says of tendencies in the West India colonies that parallel like tendencies on the continent we feel in hearty sympathy. To that phase of our colonial history practically no attention has been paid in America. But the preface contains a few omissions and errors that might easily have been remedied. The well-known Order in Council of March 11, 1752, is given as issued in April, and Mr. Munro has passed over entirely the important order of May 15, 1761, though it is printed in this volume (p. 157). The order directing the colonies to revise their laws is confused with that of March 11 (given as April 14), whereas it was approved in April, having been favorably reported in January. The reference to § 652 on page x should be to § 651, and the date when Georgia became a royal colony should be 1752. The name of John Camm is given as Camin, which may be, or seem to be, the reading of the Register, though it is later given correctly. A curious slip, due to unfamiliarity with Indian topography and to a misreading of the text, places the Delaware Indians in Connecticut, and the name of Wycoming for Wyoming, though so given in the entry, should have been corrected. The reference to Sir Matthew Lamb rouses the suspicion that Mr. Munro is not familiar with the fact that Lamb was the regularly appointed legal adviser of the board, while his comment on the Bosomworth case in Georgia suggests that he has not examined the evidence in the controversy found among the Board of Trade papers. But these are minor points and weigh but slightly against the many excellent features which the preface possesses.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS.